

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 15, 39-47, 75, 81-85, 87-91, 98, and 100-102 are pending in the application, with claims 15, 42-47, 75, 82-85, 87, 88, 101 and 102 being the independent claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Independent Claims 15 and 75

Claims 15, 17, 18, 48 and 75-77 and 86 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,643,087 to Marcus et al. ("the Marcus Patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,912,661 to Siddiqui ("the Siddiqui patent") or U.S. Patent No. 5,724,106 to Autry et al. ("the Autry patent"). Applicants have amended claim 15 to include the subject matter of claim 38 and intervening claim 36, which was indicated as being allowable. Applicants have also amended claim 75 to include the subject matter of claim 80 and intervening claim 78, which was indicated as being allowable. Applicants have canceled claims 17, 18, 48, 76, 77 and 86, thereby obviating the rejection with respect to those claims. Accordingly, claims 15 and 75 and their dependent claims are allowable over the cited references. Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's position with respect to the claim rejections, and have amended and/or canceled the claims to advance prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of different scope in subsequent applications.

Dependent Claims 36, 37, 78 and 79

Claims 36, 37, 78 and 79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Marcus patent in view of the Siddiqui patent, and further in view of the Autry patent. Claims 36, 37, 78 and 79 have been canceled, thereby obviating the rejection with respect to

those claims. Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's position with respect to the claim rejections and have canceled the claims to advance prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of different scope in subsequent applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in the application. With respect to objected claims 38-47, 80-85 and 87, Applicants have amended the claims and/or rewritten them in independent form including all of the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, all pending claims are allowable.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

COOLEY GODWARD LLP

Date: January 29, 2004

By:



Erik B. Milch
Reg. No. 42,887

COOLEY GODWARD LLP
11951 Freedom Drive
Reston Town Center
Reston, Virginia 20190-5656
(703) 456-8000 – Phone
(703) 456-8100 – Facsimile

191760 v1/RE
43Y_01!.DOC

F